

There's a Reason for Everything

LifeGroup Lesson

June 14, 2020

Genesis 45:1-15

OPENING PRAYER:

Loving and merciful God, in this quiet moment, we ask that you align the hearts of your people with yours, that we may submit to your will in all things. There is so much in our lives that we don't understand. Fear and doubt try so hard to keep us from trusting your goodness. But, let each one here today release their fears and doubts; giving them freely to you. Help them to come to you not hiding their uncertainty, but bringing it before you, knowing you are not surprised by their feelings. We come in trust and we ask your Spirit to renew our faith in you once more. You are God. That is enough. Amen.

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree/disagree with the sermon this week?
- Can you identify a time in your life where in retrospect God was using some part of your life? (a certain job, skill, tragedy, joy, etc.)

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD: ¹

Twenty years ... and finally Joseph is reunited with his family. Read Genesis 45:1-15.

- It's been three chapters and a couple of years since Joseph encountered his brothers. Why do you think he waited so long to reveal himself?
- When Joseph finally reveals himself, he embraces his brothers. Why do you think he responds this way? How would you respond?
- Joseph saw God in control of every aspect of his life. What does this teach you about how you face your trials?

Read Genesis 50:14-26.

- It's been years and yet upon their father's death, the brothers yet again fear Joseph. What do you think leads to this reaction?
- Have you experienced such human false reconciliation/repentance? How does God offer something different?
- What relationship in your life can you respond to differently?

NEXT STEPS:

- One of our teaching notes this week reminded us that God is with us and loves us 'No Matter What.' Write down 3-5 blessings in your life. Place them somewhere as a reminder during your trials.
- Make a list of events/characteristics that make you uniquely you. (trials you've endured, special skills, etc.) Pray over each; how does God want you to use these and what action steps will you take?
- What is one thing you have learned from Joseph's story? How will you share this with someone in your life experiencing difficulty?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered;

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;

Be happy anyway.

¹ *The Serendipity Bible*, 4th Edition

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway.
Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
Give the world the best you've got anyway.
You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God;
It was never between you and them anyway.
---Mother Teresa, written on the walls of her room to pray everyday